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Hospital Corps Celebrates 105th Anniversary  
By Aveline V. Allen  
Bureau of Medicine & Surgery  
June 16, 2003

"I'm proud of what the team represents...honor, courage, and commitment," said FORCM Jacqueline L. DiRosa, Head of the Navy's Hospital Corps (HC), as 23,843 active duty and 4,500 reservists celebrate 105 years of dedicated and committed service on June 17. "The Hospital Corps is comprised of compassionate, professional men and women whose history is marked with service, honor, unwaivering courage and a never-ending commitment to the health and welfare of our Sailors, Marines and their families."

The Navy's Hospital Corps continues to play an important role in Navy Medicine's mission of Force Health Protection (FHP).

"The Hospital Corps plays a vital role in ensuring our mission of FHP is met from battlefield care to research and development," said DiRosa. "In fact, Navy Medicine could not meet its mission without the direct involvement of the nearly 24,000 hospital corpsmen in the 34 health care specialties."

In addition to FHP, the HC is currently involved in efforts to improve their performance on land and abroad. They have increased several of their training programs to enhance their skill and performance level.

"There has been an increase in chemical, biological, radiation, and nuclear training and an increase in trauma training and platform specific training for MAP personnel," said DiRosa.

However, she stresses that much of the areas of improvement lie within the commands.

"We are always looking for areas of improvement, but the biggest impact to our readiness and ability to carry out the mission rests with each command," said DiRosa. "Commands have the responsibility to ensure their personnel are well trained to meet the operational and homeland missions."

As they continue to improve their mission readiness, there are several major accomplishments that the HC can be proud of this past year.

"Our rapid deployment and support of operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom have been one of our major accomplishments," said DiRosa. "We deployed over 2,800 HMs from Claimancy 18 to support units afloat and in the field, and recalled 1,400 HM reservists to backfill our medical treatment facility (MTF) personnel ensuring there was minimal degradation of service to our beneficiaries."

As the HC looks ahead to future endeavors, they will build upon past accomplishments and lessons learned.

"These past operations have reinforced the importance of the HC in carrying out the Navy Medicine mission of FHP," said DiRosa.

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